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portance when there are several persons to be examined, for, if kept waiting, they will most probably either slip off or refuse to be measured. 125

(A). *Hair and Eye Colour.*—In the obtaining of these data the methods, cards, and tables were precisely the same as those used in the expedition to Aran, to the report of which the reader is referred for particulars.

(B). *Measurements.*—These were, with the exceptions hereafter mentioned, the same as previously. The head circumference and external binocular breadth, not having proved satisfactory, were omitted, and for them were substituted:—(1). The upper face length measured from the naso-frontal suture to the separation between the central incisors at the gum. (2). The height sitting. This, though it is certainly a most valuable measurement, for which reason it was inserted in the observation schedule, was found to be altogether unsuited for field work, as it could only be taken in a few exceptional cases, so I had reluctantly to abandon it. (3). Auriculo-mental radius, measured with the Dublin craniometer, from the centre of the ear-hole to the point of the chin.

(C). *Instruments used.*—These consisted of Garson's anthropometer, a sliding measure for the limbs, Broca's compas d'épaisseur and compas glissière and a Chesterman steel tape. 126 Instead of the fixed metallic Cunningham craniometer, the new portable pattern of the same instrument (made specially for field work by Messrs. Robinson, of Grafton-street, Dublin) was taken, and stood the test well, being quite as rigid as the older pattern when set up, and, as it is made of boxwood, much lighter. Its portability is a great advantage, as by the removal of one screw-bolt the whole instrument may be disjointed and carried in the coat-pocket. A set of Snellen test-types for accurately estimating the keenness of eyesight was also taken, and proved to be very useful.

The whole, with note-books and observation forms, were carried, fitted in a canvas knapsack, and, as they weighed under ten pounds, were light enough to be easily carried even in long walks over very rough ground.

(D). *Remarks on the Methods employed.*—There were several difficulties experienced in the making of the observations this year, due partly to the visit being made at harvest time when most of the people were engaged in the fields, partly to local causes, the principal of which were the shyness of the people, the manner in which the hair of most of the women was covered by the shawl which was drawn more closely on the approach of a stranger, and the closeness with 124 [609] [291] [302]

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124 [302] which the hair of many of the men was cut, which often rendered distinction of shade very difficult. Owing to the season most of the observations had to be made in the morning when the people were going to their work, or early in the evening when they were returning, or gathered around their cottage doors; in many cases, however, they were followed to the harvest field and measured there.

126 [123] The taking of photographs did not, as elsewhere, cause the assembly of the knot of spectators which usually affords so good an opportunity for the collection of eye and hair colours; it had rather the opposite effect, as the people have a strong dislike to having their portraits taken.

In spite of these difficulties, however, I succeeded in noting the eye and hair colours of 241 individuals, on 40 of whom (being about one-fifth of the adult males of the islands) measurements and other observations were taken.

Care was exercised that none of those measured should be entered in the ordinary nigrescence cards, as well as to avoid recording the same individual twice or the noting of persons who were not natives.

(K). *Photography.*—For the reasons already mentioned there could not be as much done in this department as had been hoped; but, in spite of the strong aversion shown by many of the people to having their portraits taken, and the strong winds prevailing during our stay, my brother, J. M. Browne, who accompanied me to do the necessary photography, succeeded in obtaining a considerable number of typical groups, as well as some single portraits in full face and profile, and a series of views illustrative of the modes of life and environment of the people.

2.—Physical Characters.

142 (A). The people, on the whole, much resemble the inhabitants of the opposite coast of Connemara, and their appearance testifies to a mixed origin. The following is believed to be a correct description of their average physical characters:—

Stature and bulk.—The men, as a rule, are stoutly built, and of medium height; very few can fairly be termed tall, and there is a very considerable proportion of men of low stature. The average height is [141] 1633 mm., or about 5 feet 6½ inches, which falls short of the Irish mean stature as found by Gould, the Anthropometric Committee of the British Association, and others, by about two inches.

142 143 The women are of a slighter build than the men, and, apparently, more even in height; they also show more strikingly that great simi-

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125 changes were made to bring our observation form into closer accord with that adopted by the Ethnographic Survey Committee of the British Association for use in England. The new form admits of very rapid noting, and in collecting easily and accurately the main physical characters of the persons examined. It has not, however, any advantage over the old form, of which it is a modification, in the convenience of working up results, in fact it is inferior in this respect as the spaces for indices at the bottom of the page, which are omitted, proved a great help in tabulating the results of the Inishbofin Survey; another defect is that some of the points to be noted are not strictly defined, and leave too much to the personal opinion of the observer.

(A.) *Hair and eye colour.*—No change was made in this part of the work, the method being exactly that used on the two previous occasions. For full particulars the reader is referred to the Report on the visit to the Aran Islands.[1]

(B.) *Measurements and instruments.*—These were the same as formerly employed, with two additions:—(1) *The height of the head*; and (2) *height of cranium*, both projections, directions for taking which were printed on the observation forms. These measurements were given a trial, as they form part of the series on the English form, but after a time they were abandoned for reasons given below.

● 126 The same set of instruments as used in Inishbofin was carried, packed in a canvas case. It consisted of compas d'epaisseur, compas glissière, the portable pattern of Cunningham's craniometer, Garson's anthropometer, steel tape, Snellen test types, note books, nigrescence cards, and observation forms, as before. The only new appliance was a Trinity hand camera, made by Messrs. Curtis, Suffolk-street, Dublin, which, though subjected to rather rough treatment, stood the test admirably and did very satisfactory work. When not in use it was carried in a stout waterproof case slung over the shoulder.

(C). *Remarks on methods employed.*—The work had to be carried on 124 under rather different circumstances from those experienced before, as the weather prevailing during my visit to the district was not too well suited for field work, the rains being frequent and heavy, and the wind very strong, besides this, the population is much more scattered than any dealt with before, and long journeys had often to be made for very little result. In some ways, however, the work

[1] Ethnography of the Aran Islands, Co. Galway, Proc. R. I. A., vol. II., 3rd ser., p. 768.

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was easier, the measuring being, in many cases, done under shelter, instead of on the hills, the roadside, or the sea-shore. 124

As is mentioned above the two new measurements had to be abandoned owing to practical difficulties. It is a matter of experience in work of this sort in Ireland that persons do not *come* to be measured, they have to be sought out and induced to submit themselves to the process, often no easy matter; there are generally several to be measured in quick succession, but if kept waiting long they will one by one slip off and refuse to allow measurement; and as the adapting of the anthropometer for these projections takes some time, the instrument having to be unshipped for each, and then fitted up again to measure the next comer, it became evident that these projections would have to be given up if anything like a sufficient number of persons was to be measured. Moreover, accuracy in taking projection measurements is by no means easily obtained, even under the most favourable circumstances in a laboratory, and the difficulty is increased so much in field work, where it is not at all easy to get the men to understand exactly what position they are wanted to assume, so as to make the results unreliable. [123] [126]

The noting of the colours of the hair and eyes also presented some difficulties, the chief being to distinguish between those who were natives and strangers from other districts, which was rendered greater by the absence of a distinctive dress (except in the case of the people of Inishkea). In spite of these difficulties, however, I succeeded in noting the eye and hair colours of 494 individuals, on 62 (male adults) of whom the full series of measurements and observations was made. As on the two former surveys precautions were taken against recording the same person twice, as well as against the inclusion of the men measured in the ordinary nigrescence cards.

(D). *Photography.*—Owing to the rain and rough weather as much could not be done in this department as had been hoped, but in spite of the difficulties of cloudy skies and high winds a number of photographs were taken, including, 17 portraits, 14 of them individuals measured, 12 groups, taken in all parts of the district, 30 illustrations of the occupations, modes of transport, and habitations of the people, also several of the antiquities of the district, and a set of views showing surface of land and nature of coast line, &c. 126

Some of these photographs were taken by myself, others by my brother J. M. Browne. The addition of the hand camera to our appliances has proved to be a great advantage, enabling portraits of unwilling subjects to be taken, and adding to the value of the photo-

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graphs of occupations by admitting of their being taken when the performers were in motion. It could also be used on occasions when the high winds would not allow the setting up of a tripod stand.

2.—*Physical Characters*:—

(a). The general physical characters of the people are as given below, though some differences exist between the inhabitants of different parts of the district.

The people on the whole are good-looking, especially when young; many of the girls and young women are very handsome, but they appear to age rapidly and early become wrinkled.

Stature and bulk.—The men of this district are as a rule of fair average stature, very stoutly built, and broad shouldered; while there are few who can fairly be termed very tall, yet many reach a good height, and the proportion of small men is by no means large. The average stature of the 62 adult males measured was 1725 mm., or about 5 feet 8 inches. The extremes were 1628 mm. (5 feet 4 inches), and 1820 mm., or about 5 feet 11¾ inches.

The women seem to be more even in height than the men.

Limbs.—The hands are usually of medium size, broad and with fingers squarely clubbed at the ends. The forearms (measured from styloid process to the head of radius) are often very long for the stature, and the span is sometimes very great, though in a few cases it is less than the stature, a character also noted in the Aran Islands, though the proportion of cases in which it was observed was much greater there.

Head.—The head is generally well shaped and is often of large size. The forehead is broad and upright (rarely receding), rounded away at the sides, and of fair height; superciliary ridges and glabella of no great size, eye-brows thick and level.

The cranial curve rises to a pretty fair height above the ears (height index 65·8), though not attaining the altitude seen in the people of Aran and the men of Inishbofin, and descends in an even sweep to the occipital protuberance as the occipital region does not usually project.

In the majority of cases, as will be seen from the table of indices, the head is mesaticephalic, the mean index being 77·4 (when two units are deducted to reduce to the cranial standard). Of the 62 persons measured, 10 were brachycephalic, and 11 dolichocephalic. The extremes were 86·2 and 72·3.

16:Messenger E-4,5 (1955-1966) 1969 ER6 Rural Irish ER6
(1959-1960) Inis Beag

centuries of careful observations. I collected 250 of these signs and placed them in the following general categories: density, location, and time of mist; type of frost and heaviness of dew; size and position of rings around sun and moon; color and conformation of sky and clouds at particular times of the day; density and location of fog banks; position and time of rainbows; clarity, closeness, and color of Inis Thiar and the mainland; changes in the weather in relation to tides; actions of animals; and pains in the human body. Of special interest are the signs associated with animal behavior, such as the height at which swallows fly, the prevalence of fly hordes, the crowing of roosters and braying of asses, the position that cats assume at the hearth, and whether or not spiders weave their webs across trails. The expert forecaster will weigh together as many as ten signs before announcing his prediction, and I once collected 16 from an old man in Low Village assessing conditions 12 hours hence. Some signs are quite obviously undependable, among them the quacking of ducks which some say will "call" rain, and the scratching of floors and furniture by cats which, according to others, will point the direction of the wind following a shift in the near future. The folk believe that the moon and tides exert a profound influence on both weather and human behavior; my wife on one occasion was told that her "snappish" mood (the words of a neighbor, not mine) was caused by the new moon.

The climate, in part, determines the conception of seasons held by the islanders. Four seasons are recognized, but their duration deviates from the norm of Western culture. Winter is conceived as embracing only December and January, while spring is thought to commence in February and end in early April. The other two seasons are not so well defined, but most folk agree that summer takes up the greater part of the year—from April until mid-September—and autumn the remaining three months. December and January are regarded as the coldest months, during which time there is a lull in economic activities, but planting begins early in February. Although the prevailing winds during the year are from the west and southwest, for several weeks between January and mid-March icy winds blow steadily from the southeast quarter and cause much physical discomfort and illness. In late March and early April, temperatures rise rapidly, and some islanders believe that March "steals" three days from April so that summer cannot be expected until after April 3rd. The circumstances of the theft are revealed in a legend.

The reason that summer is thought to extend for so long is a psychological one: the folk dislike winter with its cold and dampness and attendant sickness and the sense of isolation from the world that it brings. Few outsiders visit Inis Beag during the winter, and often the steamer is unable to leave port or must turn back because of gales or high seas. It is not out of the ordinary for the island to be totally isolated for a week or ten days because of inclement conditions. From late January on, warm weather is anticipated eagerly, and I was told time and again that summer was imminent when spells of cold and rainy weather occurred between March and June of 1960. During a quarrel with her husband over his confident weather forecasting ability, a woman noted for being an outspoken realist declared, "Inis Beag has only one summer month—July."

The island experiences but eight hours of daylight, from nine o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon, at the time of the winter solstice, and

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add color and give point: to guide, to encourage, to praise, to admonish, to reprove, and to implement the art of "indirection" so dear to the Irish. Many are subtle and cannot be understood unless the history and culture of Inis Beag and Ireland are known to the listener. Such a one is, "Come raise the bag on me." This proverb derives from the days of the famine, when maize (corn) was distributed to the poor and hungry; an old woman on the mainland nearby with eight mouths to feed was given a one pound sack, and she asked an official to help her with the "great load." Now it is employed whenever someone receives less than he anticipated. Both tales and proverbs serve enculturative ends by providing models of proper behavior to infants and children. Riddles, told only by the very young, also function in this manner—to sharpen the wits.

Music, Song, and Dance

Many times I have heard it said on the mainland that the folk of Inis Beag were in the past, and still are, "poor" musicians, singers, and dancers. It is claimed that once there were competent "fiddlers," pipers, tin whistle and flute players, and accordion, concertina, and melodeon players in the island, but during the months that my wife and I lived there, our portable phonograph and two dozen records —along with the accordions of several inexpert musicians, mostly young men trying to master the instrument—provided most of the music for dancing. Music also is produced by lilting, which is known as "mouth music" or "*pus* music" (*pus* being a Gaelic word for mouth). I have witnessed only one man lilt to accompany step dancing, and he for never more than three minutes without pause because of his advanced age; at 73 years, he can lilt while dancing a brief jig himself.

The violin is played holding its base in the crook of the elbow, while the forearm is supported on the thigh of the seated musician. The sole fiddler in 1960 was the *seanchaí*, and he could step dance, sing, and recite poetry as well with a high order of excellence for a man of 72 years. Much more difficult to play than its mouth blown counterpart of Scottish fame, the Irish Uilleann bagpipe is played while seated, and its windbag inflated by a bellow manipulated by movements of the upper arm. Since its drone pipes do not dominate the chanter, or melody pipe, the music produced with this bagpipe is more tuneful than that of the Highland instrument: as one islander put it, "The Scottish pipes make you want to charge into battle, while ours make you want to leap up and dance." Today, the only pipe music heard in Inis Beag is played during the summer, when occasionally a mainland piper is hired to furnish music to dance to for children attending summer language school. Tin whistle players usually perform on the flute also, since the former instrument is a smaller, vertically played cousin of the latter, somewhat resembling the recorder. It is extremely common on the mainland, but no longer played in Inis Beag except infrequently by visitors. Although the accordion and related wind instruments have achieved a new popularity owing to the vogue of the "*céilí* band," in which they assume a commanding position, they were played widely in the island during the last century after being introduced by lighthouse